

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 EB-11 STR-08

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FEA-02 SCI-06 INT-08 DRC-01

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R 081519Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8609

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EFIN ENRG AR UR

SUBJ: VISIT OF ARGENTINE ECONOMIC DELEGATION IN MOSCOW

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 3230; (B) BUENOS AIRES 3130

1. SUMMARY. SOVIETS HAVE ROLLED OUT RED CARPET FOR VISIT TO MOSCOW MAY 4-8 OF LARGE ARGENTINE ECONOMIC DELEGATION HEADED BY MINISTER OF ECONOMY GELBARD. GELBARD AND TOP MEMBERS OF DELEGATION HAD MEETINGS WITH BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN AND PODGORNYY. VISIT HAS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN SOVIET PRESS AND APPEARS HAVE BEEN DEFINITE SUCCESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF INITIAL CONTACTS WITH SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFICIALS. IN MEETINGS WITH PRESS GELBARD ANNOUNCED FAVORABLE DISCUSSIONS ON NEW FORMS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY IN ENERGY FIELD; SIGNATURE
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OF AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF MIXED SOVIET-ARGENTINE

COMMISSION; AWARD OF SALTO GRANDE TURBINE CONTRACT TO USSR; AND PLANS FOR PERON VISIT TO USSR IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER 1974. AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PERON, GELBARD ALSO AWARDED BREZHNEV HIGH ARGENTINE DECORATION DURING MEETING MAY 6. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIETS HAVE ACCORDED ARGENTINE ECONOMIC DELEGATION HEADED BY ECONOMIC MINISTER JOSE GELBARD HIGHEST LEVEL TREATMENT. VISIT HAS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PLAY IN SOVIET PRESS. MAIN EVENTS HAVE BEEN SEPARATE MEETINGS BETWEEN GELBARD AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF CPSU BREZHNEV, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS KOSYGIN AND CHAIRMAN OF SUPREME SOVIET PODGORNYY.

3. DURING MEETING WITH BREZHNEV ON MAY 5 GELBARD WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TETTAMANTI, STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN ECONOMICS AND TRADE, CAPTAIN P.F. SANKURKHO, MILITARY NAVAL ATTACHE TO ARGENTINE PRESIDENT, AND T.A. SOSIO, ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR IN USSR. AS PERSONAL ENVOY OF ARGENTINE PRESIDENT PERON, GELBARD DECORATED BREZHNEV WITH "ORDER OF GREAT CROSS OF THE MAY REVOLUTION".

4. AT MAY 6 MEETINGS WITH PODGORNYY AND KOSYGIN, GELBARD WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TETTAMANTI AND ALSO BY CHAIRMAN OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES LASTIRI, STATE SECRETARY FOR ENERGY SBARRA, SENATOR I. LUDER, GENERAL SECRETARY OF FEDERATION OF LABOR ROMERO, PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC CONFEDERATION BRONER, AND ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO USSR SOSIO. SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN THESE MEETINGS WERE S.A. SKACHKOV, CHAIRMAN OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, A.N. SVESHNIKOV, CHAIRMAN OF STATE BANK (GOSBANK), I.F. FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, AND N.N. RODIONOV, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

5. CONVERSATIONS DESCRIBED IN PRESS AS "FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE", AND CONCERNED WITH IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ARGENTINE/SOVIET RELATIONS.

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6. PROBABLY MOST CONCRETE AND INFORMATIVE ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED DURING VISIT APPEARED IN TASS ECONOMIC NEWSLETTER VESTNIK WHICH OFTEN PROVIDES DETAILS NOT CARRIED IN CENTRAL PRESS. ACCORDING TO VESTNIK, GELBARD STATED IN SPECIAL TASS INTERVIEW THAT MAIN OBJECTIVE OF VISIT WAS IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS FOR TRADE-ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND USSR. SOVIET-ARGENTINE AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED IN BUENOS AIRES

IN FEBRUARY--(TRADE-ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL PROTOCOLS, AND AGREEMENT ON DELIVERY OF SOVIET MACHINERY), GELBARD ANNOUNCED THAT USSR HAS SUBMITTED WINNING BID FOR SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT FOR SALT GRANDE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED SIGNING OF JOINT AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF MIXED SOVIET-ARGENTINE COMMISSION ON TRADE-ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION. FINALLY, HE STATED THAT PRESIDENT PERON WILL VISIT MOSCOW IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. AS OF MAY 8 PROPOSED VISIT HAS NOT BEEN CARRIED IN ANY OTHER NEWS MEDIA.

7. IN ADDITION TO PRESS COVERAGE MENTIONED ABOVE, IZVESTIYA EVENING OF MAY 7 CARRIES FOUR SEPARATE ARTICLES ON ARGENTINE VISIT. THESE REPORT (A) GELBARD PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 6 IN WHICH HE DESCRIBES MEETING WITH BREZHNEV AS "UNFORGETTABLE MEETING, WARM AND FRIENDLY", AND NOTES THAT COOPERATION CAN BE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE IN ENERGY FIELD; (B) MEETING AT FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY WITH FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER SEMICHASTNOV MAY 6; (C) SEPARATE MEETING MAY 6 BETWEEN SENATOR LUDER AND A.P. SHITIKOV, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF UNION OF SUPREME SOVIET; AND (D) SEVEN PARAGRAPH TASS DESPATCH FROM BUENOS AIRES REPORTING EXTENSIVE PRESS RADIO AND TV COVERAGE

8. AS OF MORNING MAY 8 THERE HAS BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF SIGNING OF MARITIME TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OR OF DOCUMENTS FOR SALT GRANDE PROJECT. LATTER MAY BE ANNOUNCED IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO BE PUBLISHED ON DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE. ON BASIS OF USUAL SOVIET PROCEDURES, EMBASSY AGREES STRONGLY WITH SUGGESTIONS MADE IN PARAGRAPH 2, REFTEL B, THAT THIS VISIT MAINLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONE FOR INITIAL CONTACTS AND PUBLICITY. ON THAT SCORE IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. THERE ARE ALSO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF SOVIET OFFER OF LARGE DEVELOPMENT CREDIT, ON WHICH WE HOPE TO HAVE MORE SHORTLY. STOESSEL

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